



## **Next Steps for NOAA Fisheries after Oregon Coast Coho Listing Decision**

(Jan. 17, 2006)

- NOAA Fisheries Service and the State of Oregon have agreed to jointly develop a restoration plan for Oregon coast coho salmon that meets requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy. NOAA and the state formed a diverse 21-member Coho Stakeholder Team in June 2004 to provide feedback and information on development of the plan. The draft restoration plan will be available in June 2006. Such a plan will ensure that limited resources are targeted most effectively to aid coho salmon in attaining and sustaining a restored status.
- For thousands of years, Oregon coast coho salmon have been a part of the ecology, culture, and commerce of watersheds along the Oregon coast. Coho are an important resource providing ecological and economic benefits, which are important parts of NOAA Fisheries Service mandates under the ESA and Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Though not listed under the ESA, NOAA Fisheries Service will continue to conduct MSA essential fish habitat consultations and work with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council to ensure fisheries are managed to protect and sustain coho salmon.
- The Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Coho Technical Recovery Team will continue to work with NOAA's Regional Office, Oregon and the Stakeholder Team to provide technical review of products and management actions in the draft restoration plan.
- NOAA's 2006 *Oregon Coast Coho Restoration Strategy* will soon be available on the Northwest Region's Website at [www.nwr.noaa.gov](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov). This report identifies how NOAA will work with the state to produce a draft restoration plan in 2006.